THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b): There is no immediate proposal to exclude more categories of information from the purview of the Right to Information Act.

Training by university of America

1112. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three universities of America have been selected for providing training to higher administrative officers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the report of such universities would be kept in mind at the time of promoting these officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this scheme would be implemented;

(d) whether there is any proposal for giving training to those Ministers to which these officers are attached; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to introduce mandatory mid career training programme for IAS officers at three different levels in their career. These will be a programme of 8-weeks between the 7th and 9th year of service, another 8-weeks between the 14th and 16th year of service and a programme of 4-weeks between the 26th and 28th year of service. This Mid Career Training programme would henceforth be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for promotion. Further, participation in the programme designed for officers between the 26th and 28th year of service shall be a minimum requirement for empanelment as Additional Secretary or Secretary in Government of India and for further increments after the 28th year of service.

The work of detailed design and delivery of each of the Phases of the Mid Career Training has been entrusted to the following pairs of institutions selected by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose:

1. The TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi and the Duke Centre for International Development of Duke University for the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service.
2. The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University for the programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 years of service.
3. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University for the programme designed for officers with 26 to 28 years of service.

The primary objective of this programme is to help develop "next level competency" before the officers get promoted to higher positions.

The programme designed for officers with 26 to 28 years of service has been conducted at IIM, Ahmedabad from the 2nd to 25th January, 2007. The programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 years of service is scheduled to commence from the 23rd April, 2007 and the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service is proposed to be conduced from the 11th June, 2007. Both these programmes would be conducted at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

(d) and (d) No, Sir. The programme is intended for the capacity building of IAS officers.

Number of billionaires

†1113. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of billionaires in the country during 2000-01 to 2005-06 has been increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the number of billionaires in the country in the years 2000-01 and in 2005-06; and

(c) the total assets held by these billionaires during each of the above said years?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.